The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 42. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1916. WHOLE NO. 250.

A. F. OF L. HOME STONE LAID

Washington, Jan. 15.—The cornerstone of the new A. F. of L. office building was laid last Saturday afternoon with appropriate ceremonies. President Gompers wielded the trowel. A large delegation of visiting and resident trade unionists and government officials were present, and a band, volunteered by the local Musicians' union, furnished music.

In referring to the significance of this occasion, Secretary Frank Morrison said: "The erection of this building marks a great epoch in the history of organized wage earners in America." He paid a tribute to the successful work of the American Federation of Labor in making possible better conditions for the working men and women, and declared that these betterments were also enjoyed by the unorganized toilers.

President Gompers made a brief address, which he referred to the progress of labor through organization. This association, he said, typifies all that is good and true, and will stand an enduring monument which shall inspire the members of organized labor to carry on through all time.

The cornerstone, a massive piece of granite, was presented to the Federation by Harry J. Gomez, president of the Granite Cutters' union and a son of President Gompers. The donor himself placed the last stroke on the stone.

"American Federation of Labor, founded 1881; this edifice erected for service in the cause of labor, justice, freedom, humanity—1915," is the legend.

A copper box, containing official documents of the organization, letters from President Wilson, Secretary of Labor Wilson, and President Gompers, photographs of them and also of the executive council of the federation in 1881 and the present council, together with coins, newspapers, and other articles, were placed in the corner stone.

The copper box was made by P. G. Hugo, a member of the Kansas City, Mo., Sheet Metal Workers' union, and presented to the Federation by Frank J. Hynes of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance.

HUMAN VALUES GO UP.

Philadelphia, Jan. 15.—"An event which is shocking or dramatic or spectacular, even though its scene be far distant, impresses the people of this country more than an orderly but revolutionary economic change at home which vitally affects their own interests," says the North American of this city, in a leading editorial.

"Bankers readers will follow the details of a Balkan battle with closer attention than they give to the passage of a law which shifts the very foundations of our social system.

"A striking example of this habit of mind is to be observed in the fact that rarely cannot but has the significance by the public in the new workmen's compensation law, which became effective on January 1. It is, indeed, with the culmination of the most far-reaching social and economic change that has occurred in this state in our time.

"Hereafter, in Pennsylvania, lives which are destroyed and limbs which earning power which are impaired in industry will be paid for by industry, in the same manner that the cost of machinery has been paid for in the past. This marks the most important victory won in the long struggle for the fundamental doctrine that the rights of human beings are superior to the rights of property.

"The new law, establishing the principle that human rights are paramount, provides that in industry which destroys a worker's earning power and his use to society shall make good his disability."

AGREE ON COMPENSATION ACT.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 15.—A commission has finally agreed on a proposed workmen's compensation act and will submit same to the state legislature at its next session. An elective system of compensation is provided for, and employers may carry stock-company insurance, carry their own risk upon proof of solvency, or insure in a state mutual similar to that in Massachusetts and Texas plans. The maximum weekly benefit to be paid injured is $15, to be paid for life, and the maximum for death or total disability is $4,000.

The last legislature passed a compensation act, but this was declared illegal by Judge Dorsey on the ground that the law contained a prohibition limit being placed on the amount of damages to be paid in case of death. Application for compensation held that this made it impossible for any relief under the present constitution, and the court of appeals modified Judge Dorsey's opinion.

FREIGHT AND TALK COMPARED.

Washington, Jan. 15.—"The railroads get on the average 7 mills a mile for moving a ton of freight. The telephone company charges 6 mills a mile for carrying a three-minute conversation," said Congressman Lewis, in a speech in the house of representatives, last Monday.

The chairman of the committee on labor was discussing government ownership of telegraphs and telephones when he made the statement that it costs an American citizen as much for his long-distance conversation over the wires, mile for mile, as it costs a friend who ship a ton of freight over the rails.

"You may realize how weighty your conversation sometimes are," he said. "They weigh about a ton on the long-distance wires." The speaker argued for the benefits derived from parcel post as a demonstration of what may be accomplished by the "postalization" of means of communication.

BALLOTING ON 8-HOUR DAY.

Cleveland, Jan. 15.—The question of a demand for an eight-hour day on all railroads in the United States and Canada is now in the hands of members of the four brotherhoods of conductors, engineers, trainmen and firemen. Ballots have been sent to all branches of the brotherhoods and the vote will be canvassed in Chicago, March 1, and if favorable the demand will be placed in the hands of the executives of the brotherhoods.

DEMAND SHORTER HOURS.

Canonsburg, Pa., Jan. 15.—Striking employes of the steel and iron works at this place have refused to accept a wage increase of 10 cents a day. They insist on a substantial wage increase and a reduction of the workday from ten to nine hours.

UPHOLD SMOKE ORDINANCE.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The United States supreme court has upheld the smoke ordinance passed by Des Moines, Iowa. The court ruled that municipalities have the right to pass regulations covering this subject.

LESS HOURS IN SHIP YARDS

Washington, Jan. 15.—The metal trades department of the A. F. of L. will inaugurate a general eight-hour campaign in the private ship yard districts of New York, Philadelphia, Newport News and Wilmington, Del.

This movement was recommended by President O'Connell, of the department, at its annual convention, in San Francisco, last November, and was later indorsed by the A. F. of L. convention.

Last Monday and Tuesday the executives of the various metal trades internationals, together with President O'Connell and Secretary Bernet, of the department, and President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the A. F. of L., perfected plans for an aggressive eight-hour campaign in the Atlantic seaboard shipyards. All metal trades unions will begin organizers for this work and the officers of the A. F. of L. will do all in their power to make effective the San Francisco declarations on this subject.

These unions assert that the time for an eight-hour agitation in this industry is most opportune. The yards are experiencing the most profitable time in their history and all indications point to a continuance of these conditions.

Under instructions the metal trades department President O'Connell will confer with the managers of the ship yards and present the matter for their consideration, together with the number of yards that are operating an eight-hour basis. These eight-hour yards are: New York Shipbuilding Company, Camden, N. J.; Fore River Shipbuilding company, Quincy, Mass.; Union Iron Works, San Francisco; Lake Torpedo Boat company, Bridgeport, Conn.; California Ship Yard, at Los Angeles, Cal.; New London Ship and Engine company, Groton, Conn.; Moore & Scott Iron and Steel Engineering Iron Works, Oakland, Cal.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Jan. 15.—There were 29,297 immigrants admitted to this country during last November, reports the bureau of immigration, department of labor. During the month of November, 1914, the number was 35,325, while 117,021 were admitted during November, 1913.

Of the 29,297 admitted last November Italy led with 2,467. The stoppage of eastern European immigration because of the war is shown by the fact that Bulgaria, Servia and Montenegro furnished but 16 immigrants while in November, 1913, the number totaled 1,067. Last November, Roumania furnished 7; in November, 1913, 534.

The November, 1915, report shows that 6,485 immigrants were ticketed to New York state, 4,175 to Massachusetts, 3,672 to Michigan, 1,762 to California and 1,498 to Pennsylvania. The southern states received their usual small quota. Going to South Carolina, 11 to Kentucky, 12 to Georgia and North Carolina and 13 to Tennessee.

Of the total number of immigrants admitted during November, 7,866 were classed as laborers, 7,866 as farm laborers, and 2,561 as servants.

COMPENSATION FUND IS STABLE.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 15.—The state industrial commission, in its annual report, shows in detail the absolute stability of the compensation fund and its ability to protect hundreds of thousands of employes and thousands of employers, despite the attacks of Insurance Commissioner Taggart, which permits private liability companies to do business in this state.

A suit to annul this rule is now pending in the supreme court, and is supported by the insurance men and state federation of labor. The report declares that suit will end the contest, but the commission believes its figures show that a decision has been arrived at by employers and employes in many localities and individual employers to counteract the campaign of misrepresentation carried on by opponents of state compensation.

STEEL TRUST RAISES WAGES.

New York, Jan. 15.—By raising the wages of common laborers 10 cents, effective starting February 1, the officers of the United States steel corporation have taken drastic steps to overcome the unrepenting mutterings of discontent.

It is stated that the average daily wage of the total of 162,400 employes during the year 1914 was $2.85.

It is evident that common laborers do not enjoy this average, for Youngstown, Ohio, press dispatches state that several mill managers there say they have and are not waiting until the first of February to introduce the 10 per cent increase announced by United States steel, but will grant it immediately in an effort to allay discontent. The Youngstown sheet and tube mill managers insist a high average, is 19 1-2 cents an hour for 10 hours a day.

"SAFETY FIRST" PROFITABLE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 15.—"Safety first" will mean a cash dividend to every employer insured in the state workmen's insurance fund, the state factory inspectors are indirect agents for the fund. When these officials inspect a factory or store they report to the fund. If the fund, which does not merely contain information about miners, their ages, conditions, sanitary and other labor conditions, but includes safety conditions or lack of safety conditions. The reports are filed with the bureau of statistics of the department of labor and industry, where they are available for the state workmen's insurance fund.

GIVE SUGGESTIONS TO M. D.'S

Toronto, Ontario, Jan. 15.—Organized labor, waitresses and cooks object to paying the cost of being medically examined every six months, as they are demanding the employers pay this bill. The workers make light of the recent order of the medical health department, and suggest that if officials are really desirous of guarding the public health, let them investigate working conditions in hotels and restaurants.

HIGHER WAGES FOR MOLDERS.

Cleveland, Jan. 15.—An agreement has been reached between the iron foundry members of the Iron Molders' union and their employers. A one-year contract provides that the present rate, $3.50, shall be raised to $3.80, for the first three months, and that $4 a day shall be the prevailing rate thereafter. About 1,000 employes in over a score of shops are affected.

PURE DRUGS ACT UPHELD.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The United States supreme court has upheld the 1913 amendment to the federal pure food and drugs act. A Chicago concern leaded the contention as follows: "Effective as a protective law for general welfare the government was sustained in its claim that this was a fraud.

STOCK MARKET JUGGLERS ARE CHARGED WITH FOMENTING YOUNGSTOWN RIOT

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 15.—The riot in East Youngstown last week was the work of stock jugglers who wanted to reduce the price of the stock of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, which is to be included in a proposed half-billion dollar steel combine.

This charge was made by A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn in a public statement last Monday.

Other statements, almost as sensational, were made by the trade unionist, who declared that "we have evidence we regard as conclusive that this entire trouble was caused by paid sluggers brought to East Youngstown by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company.

"Here are some of the things we have established," continued the organizer.

"These sluggers working for the company conducted a deliberate campaign of buying and trying to get as many of the workers intoxicated as possible.

"A hall hired by Roumanian workers, on Thursday, for our use on Friday morning, was taken away by the company so that we could not use it. This hall is Roumanian hall. Our purpose was to urge the workers not to drink and not to permit themselves to be drawn into trouble.

"We were not trying to organize the sheet and tube workers. We were only organizing the men at the Republic plant, but we did offer our services to help prevent trouble at the tube works. It was for this that we wished to address the tube workers in Roumanian hall. We did not intend to try and organize them and do not intend to organize them until they cool down.

"There are 19 detective agencies on the job here with their men. The job is peddled out to so many agencies because in times of peace these agencies are able to help the companies with the men, when there is something to be done the reward is passed out to all of them.

"The gunmen who did the shooting are residents of Pittsburg.

"I don't think there is any foreign influence involved. I think it was a financial scheme rigged up as the last desperate resort to depress the value of the tube workers' stock so that it would be easy for the company to form a great half-billion dollar merger would get control that they wanted."

PIECE WORK SHORTENS LIFE

Newton, Kan., Jan. 15.—The effect of piece work and the increase of tuberculosis among metal miners in the Joplin, Mo., district is shown in a report issued by the United States bureau of mines.

Shovelers in this district work by the piece and are paid from 3 to 5 cents per "cana" for each ton of ore they shovel. These "cans" have nominal capacities of 1,000, 1,250 or 1,500 pounds.

"One can hardly realize the severity of this work without seeing it," says the report. "Hard, constant work has broken these men down, so that at the ages of 22 to 26 they are already on the down grade. The shoveler frequently has his own trammer—that is he pushes his full 'can' out to the station and the empty one back again. Except for his hasty dinner at noon, he is incessantly at work during the shift. Working thus at their full earning capacity day in and day out, it is not surprising that, with the added exposure to rock dust, these men should contract tuberculosis to an excessive degree. Especially must this be true when they must work under age and before their bodies have been fully developed.

"After a few years of shoveling the shoveler finds himself beginning to get short winded and his strength failing. When he comes to this point where he feels exhausted at the end of the day's work and feels 'groggy' when he starts in the morning he begins to rely on alcoholic stimulation to see him through, and if it has not already done so, alcohol now begins to lend a hand in undermining physical breakdown. The next step in the process is tuberculosis infection. He finally becomes unable to work, and as these men usually work as long as they can, getting no other jobs and being classed as laborers, 7,866 as farm laborers, and 2,561 as servants.

COMPENSATION FUND IS STABLE.

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SOME BANKS ARE USURIOUS.

Washington, Jan. 15.—New laws to protect borrowers from usurious banks is urged by Comptroller of the Currency Williams in his annual report. It is suggested that the department of justice be permitted to bring bill against these offending banks on information furnished by the comptroller's office. To support the plea is incorporated sworn statements from notary public banks in Georgia, Oklahoma and Louisiana, showing they have been lending money at rates of from 20 to 200 per cent. A voluminous amount of correspondence between the comptroller and banks is reprinted to show that there have been many shallow attempts to justify usurious charges, and that the borrowers are suffering mutterings of discontent.

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"SCIENTISTS" SCORED.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 15.—Editor Hilton of the Wheeling Majority is not in sympathy with Federal aid provided "scientists" who are continually figuring on the amount of food necessary to sustain workingmen, says the Majority man:

"Scientific" is sometimes only a name for the ridiculous. One of the April fool customs of imitation scientists is to figure out how many calories of heat and energy are available for the average man's consumption, and then to defend usury on the ground that "it is a long established practice," while economists declare that failure to avoid it banks. The comptroller, however, points out that no bank has been forced out of business because it was compelled to keep within the law in its interest rates.

Usurious charges are in the main exacted from helpless borrowers caught in the pinch of necessity, says the report. Reference is made to three national banks which have admitted under oath that the average rates which they charge on all loans are 36, 36 and 40 per cent per annum respectively.

DISCUSS IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The committee on immigration and naturalization of the house of representatives announces that beginning January 20 public hearings will be held on the pending immigration restriction bill. This bill is practically identical with the one vetoed by President Wilson, and which was passed over the veto of the president by the house over the chief executive's veto.

Senator Smith of South Carolina has introduced a restriction bill in the senate. He is chairman of the senate immigration committee. Congressman Burnett of Alabama, who introduced this bill in the house, is chairman of the house committee on immigration.

ORGANIZING WOMEN WORKERS.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 15.—Organized labor, in the shape of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union in its organizing campaign. It is estimated that 10,000 women workers are employed in this city, half a hundred shirt waist, corset and white goods factories in this vicinity. These workers do not average $5 a week, out of which they are compelled to pay fines from agitation meetings conducted by trade unionists.

RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

Denver, Jan. 15.—Secretary Walter, of the National Railway Postal Clerks, reports that new locals of this organization have been recently formed at Albany, N. Y.; Jersey City, Philadelphia and El Paso.

PICTURE OPERATORS GAIN

Greensburg, Pa., Jan. 15.—Motion picture operators have secured a 10 per cent increase in wages from $2 to $3 a week and secured better working conditions.

JAPS IN CANNING INDUSTRY

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 15.—In a special report on the salmon canning industry in this state, the bureau of labor says the employment of Chinese has greatly increased since the passage of the Chinese exclusion act, and that Japanese are rapidly increasing. It says that it appears that "the people in general have greater antipathy toward the Japs," which is probably due to the fact that the canning owners "for the reason that the Japs are not nearly as trustworthy, and reliable as the brown-hued brother of the Celestial race. Moreover they are not as amenable to the requirements of the employer, and quarrelsome among themselves, as well as less efficient in their work."

The report states that the average "run" of salmon seldom exceeds a period of sixty days' duration and that when the fish are caught they must be canned almost immediately to prevent spoiling. This necessitates a large supply of labor constantly available on the premises so that operations may be started at a moment's notice when the first load of fish arrives.

"Under conditions, the report continues, "are perhaps responsible for the birth of the Chinese labor contract system which has been so pronounced in years past in this industry."

The bureau of labor believes white labor is the best for this work, and points to the hundreds of settlers whose limited means make it necessary for them to secure outside employment in order to maintain themselves and their families, as a source of advantage in developing their lands ready for crops. Other seasonal workers could also be secured with the aid of the federal and state governments.

It is pointed out that the question confronting the canneryman is to promptly secure sufficient labor, and that the canneryman who has the first opportunity at the Jap has appeared on the scene. Attention is called to the work of the federal department of labor in securing workers for the fruit and berry fields.

As a solution for conditions in the canning industry, the report suggests:

"The employment of white labor can be largely accelerated by the assistance of the federal labor department through its employment agency, which, in connection with the bureau of labor, has access to laboring people living in rural districts. These people may be reached and their assistance secured for the work long before the canning season so that an adequate supply may be secured."

RAILROADS DOUBLE REVENUE.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—If their referendum now being held shows that the brotherhood railroad men of this country and Canada favor an eight-hour workday, it will be interesting to watch the manner in which railroads will treat their unprofitable property in the face of figures issued by the interstate commerce commission.

The report issued by the commission shows that railroad revenues for November, 1915, were almost double those of November, 1914. It is also shown that the net revenue per mile of 151 of the railroad systems of the country has increased by more than 71 per cent during November of last year. In the five months ended with November the same roads made a net gain of 28 per cent in per mile per net revenue. The railroads added $18,000 to the five months of 1915, while the operating expenses increased but $7,000. The net gain was a total of $116,341,355, or $21,668,371 a month. The average gain per month of each of the 151 roads was $138,472.

CAN'T ENFORCE WAGES BY LAW.

Detroit, Jan. 15.—At the last election trade unionists in this city secured a minimum wage amendment to the city charter to apply to municipal employes. Now trade unionists are attempting to have the law enforced. The city attorney says he's going to start a "friendly suit" to test the legality of the people's decision. Other officials are afraid to appropriate the necessary money. The attorney assures trade unionists he has a practical leeching in the matter, and if this decision of the people is unconstitutional he is ready to drawing up a court-proof document. In the meantime the municipal employes are waiting for the money, and citizens declared they should have.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS WIN.

Minneapolis, Jan. 15.—The Electrical Workers' union has signed an agreement with the W. O. Hartig Electrical company after differences that existed for several months. Hartig controls nearly the largest of its kind in the city and employs about 100 men. The workers' new rate, which is an increase of 6 1-4 cents an hour over the old scale.

TROUBLES OF WAGES BY LAW.

Boston, Jan. 15.—The state minimum wage commission is having difficulty with laundry proprietors who evade the established minimum wage schedule. The commission has filed a petition in the supreme court asking that these employers be ordered to produce their books and show the court the rates paid.

NEW BAKERS' UNIONS.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—Secretary Imland, of the International Brotherhood of Confectionery Workers, reports that locals of this organization have been formed at Oshkosh, Wis.; Bellaire, Ohio; Haverhill, Mass.; Fort Wayne, Ind., and New Haven, Conn.

CARPENTERS WIN LONG STRIKE.

Norristown, Pa., Jan. 15.—Union carpenters have won their eight months' strike and secured an advance in wages from $3 to $3.50 a day and increase, which makes their rate 50 cents an hour.

ORGANIZER BLAMES SUN SHEET AND TUBE CO.

Washington, Jan. 15.—In a lengthy statement on the riot at East Youngstown, Organizer T. H. Flynn, representing the American Federation of Labor at that place, writes to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, in part, as follows:

"The plant in the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, whose workers came out only a few days ago, and up until yesterday afternoon our representatives never met the strikers in these plants. The strike that we were handling was the Republic Iron and Steel company, and with 6,000 men that were out in these plants which we organized and got under control there has not been one instance of violence.

"Yesterday afternoon we heard that a riot was probable and in order that the strikers might not become victims of such a disgraceful act I sent all the organizers to East Youngstown to arrange for a meeting in a big hall so that our organizers could address the foreign-speaking people and show them the danger that might arise, from any acts of violence. We immediately heard that we were about to so instruct the men and women in the hall and would not permit us to hold the meeting. They sent their agents to the men, got them drunk, supplied them with money, lavishly until they had the men all excited.

"The Republic Iron and Steel company is now in possession of all department's and trying to negotiate terms of settlement with their employes, who are becoming members of our organization, and who are daily meeting with us, have not raised a hand in violence. City officials, from the mayor to the chief of police, meet with me every day and in this connection I want to give credit to our taking the action we have, insofar as maintaining peace is concerned.

"Shots were fired, but that is not on account of the acts of the strikers, who are knocking under themselves on the labor officials, but is due to the lawlessness of those who have not as yet left the Sheet and Tube company. I realized labor and who are foolishly meeting with the spy system and detective agency methods of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, who are paid to keep an armed guard in order to divert public sentiment."

STRIKING WAITERS ENJOINED.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 15.—Judge Sloane, of the superior court, evidently believes that striking cooks, waiters and waitresses are vitally interested in settling their legal points. He has granted an injunction against these workers picketing a struck place on the theory that the restaurant owner has the right to the use of the street and therefore, the court implies, this territory is a man's own premises.

The court, however, made this gracious concession:

"I am so strongly on that view that I am going to give you the strikers a chance to settle the question as a higher court, whether or not my contention is right."

Judge Sloane acknowledged that peaceful picketing has been declared legal by the state supreme court. But his honor says: "I am going to test that right in a picket case and seems quite sure the higher court will uphold my efforts to alter working conditions settle the question whether a business man owns to the middle of the street."

STRIKE GUARDS START RIOT

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 15.—Strike guards fired the first shots in a riot at East Youngstown last week that did not subside until these exponents of state militia were ordered to that place, two persons killed and over a score seriously injured and 100 receiving minor injuries. It is estimated that over $1,000,000 worth of property was destroyed.

The strike started Dec. 27, when 200 unorganized laborers in the tube mill of the Republic Iron and Steel company walked out because these demands were refused: Wage increases from 19 1-2 to 25 cents an hour, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays. The strikers were joined by others and the plants of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company were quickly affected. Both plants employ approximately 12,000 men.

The riot started when a shot was fired from the bridge leading to the sheet and tube company's plant. Almost instantly the populace was transformed into a frenzied and uncontrollable mob, and the events that followed vividly illustrate the folly of herding thousands of non-English speaking laborers in small areas, working them long hours for low wages, and by maintaining spy systems deny them the right to organize.

J. M. Woltz, chief of the sheet and tube company's police force, ordered that he fired the first shot. He was terrified at the result of his attempt to handle these foreigners in the mill property and to strike guards. He said he fired a "blank shot," and only intended to scare the strikers. The shot, however, started a conflagration that is inseparable with moments more than hours. Scores of state have been furnished another argument when they again request the Ohio legislature to grant to private corporations maintaining private armies to menace peace, law and order.

Responsibility for the shot is placed at the door of the strike guards by Mayor Cuningham, who made this statement:

"Had these guards been kept within the limits of the mill property no shot of there would have been any trouble. We did not have any trouble with the workers here until the strike guards took sides. We told me they would be amenable to our officers. Eye-witnesses told me it was the guards on the bridge who fired the first shots. That aroused the fury of the mob and there was no holding it in check once it started on its wild rampage."

A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn said:

"We did not call this strike. We couldn't, for the men were not organized. Besides, we are not calling any strikes. We are trying to organize the men who have walked out. The men did not start the riot. The strike guards fired the first shots."

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 15.—Strikers at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company's plant here have voted to accept what is declared to be approximately a 10 per cent wage increase.

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 18.—Iron and steel manufacturers in the Mahoning valley are guarding against strikes by announcing increases to take effect immediately. The Republic Iron and Steel company, when the increases announced by the United States Steel corporation take effect.

FAVOR CHILD LABOR.

Washington, Jan. 15.—"I'm going to send my children to the North Carolina cotton mills instead of compelling them to school," was the sarcastic declaration of a trade union official, after listening to arguments by attorneys and manufacturers before the house committee on labor in opposition to the Keating-Owen anti-child labor bill.

Attorney James Emery, whose connection with the National association of manufacturers is well known, assured the committee he was against child labor. He did not approve of it, but—

This particular bill is unconstitutional and should never, never, be sustained by the courts.

A delegation of North Carolina manufacturers appeared in opposition to the approval of the bill. Their main objection was the ruin it would cause by putting children out of work and thereby keep them from enjoying the happy life of a cotton mill worker. The manufacturers also declared the lack of educational facilities in their state, which should pass a compulsory school law. It is their intention, they declared, to introduce such a measure.

The Keating-Owen bill debars from interstate commerce all child labor products.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 15.—The department of labor and industry has issued a series of pamphlets appealing to citizens of the state to avoid occupational diseases and calling attention to the every-day dangers in various trades. It is declared that more than 1,000 persons are killed and 150 injured every day in the industries of Pennsylvania, and that 10 per cent of these accidents are preventable.

Lead poisoning is declared to be most dangerous to painters. Symptoms of lead poisoning and preventive measures are explained. It is declared that 60 per cent of lead poisoning occurs within the two years included 27 painters.

Painters are warned against the dangers of lead poisoning and tuberculosis. It is pointed out that of every 1,000 white males in Pennsylvania 3 die caused by tuberculosis. The necessity of proper light for work in a printing establishment is explained, and it is declared that a printer with eyesight ruined is a printer out of a job.

"BIGNESS" NOT ESSENTIAL

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 15.—"Things are not necessarily good because they are big," said Prof. Scott Nearing, instructor of economics, Toledo university.

"New York and every other city must learn that bigness is not the criterion to be a human success," declared the educator, who scored the striving for "bigness" in the modern cities. "And as New York's wealth eats her up, and that thing is so rich it cannot afford adequate educational facilities. Her people stand in packed trolley cars and subway trains, on their way to and from work, he said. So great is the crush and so devitalizing its effects that many employees have been nervous energy in riding to and from their work than they use for the work itself.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Troy, N. Y., Jan. 15.—Secretary Morrison of the Laundry Workers' International union states that agreements have been secured at Kingsville, Tex.; Shreveport, La., and East St. Louis, Ill. Hours are decreased and wages increased. A strike at Stockton, Cal., for union recognition and a renewal of contracts, is being vigorously fought. Nearly 150 laundry workers are involved.

MILL MEN WANT 44-HOUR WEEK

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 15.—In an effort to enforce a request for a nine minimum wage of 6 cents an hour, mill carpenters and helpers employed by the Hampden Lumber company, who are becoming members of our organization, and who are daily meeting with us, have not raised a hand in violence. City officials, from the mayor to the chief of police, meet with me every day and in this connection I want to give credit to our taking the action we have, insofar as maintaining peace is concerned.

"Shots were fired, but that is not on account of the acts of the strikers, who are knocking under themselves on the labor officials, but is due to the lawlessness of those who have not as yet left the Sheet and Tube company. I realized labor and who are foolishly meeting with the spy system and detective agency methods of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, who are paid to keep an armed guard in order to divert public sentiment."

STRIKING WAITERS ENJOINED.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 15.—Judge Sloane, of the superior court, evidently believes that striking cooks, waiters and waitresses are vitally interested in settling their legal points. He has granted an injunction against these workers picketing a struck place on the theory that the restaurant owner has the right to the use of the street and therefore, the court implies, this territory is a man's own premises.

The court, however, made this gracious concession:

"I am so strongly on that view that I am going to give you the strikers a chance to settle the question as a higher court, whether or not my contention is right."

Judge Sloane acknowledged that peaceful picketing has been declared legal by the state supreme court. But his honor says: "I am going to test that right in a picket case and seems quite sure the higher court will uphold my efforts to alter working conditions settle the question whether a business man owns to the middle of the street."

STRIKE GUARDS START RIOT

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 15.—Strike guards fired the first shots in a riot at East Youngstown last week that did not subside until these exponents of state militia were ordered to that place, two persons killed and over a score seriously injured and 100 receiving minor injuries. It is estimated that over $1,000,000 worth of property was destroyed.

The strike started Dec. 27, when 200 unorganized laborers in the tube mill of the Republic Iron and Steel company walked out because these demands were refused: Wage increases from 19 1-2 to 25 cents an hour, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays. The strikers were joined by others and the plants of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company were quickly affected. Both plants employ approximately 12,000 men.

The riot started when a shot was fired from the bridge leading to the sheet and tube company's plant. Almost instantly the populace was transformed into a frenzied and uncontrollable mob, and the events that followed vividly illustrate the folly of herding thousands of non-English speaking laborers in small areas, working them long hours for low wages, and by maintaining spy systems deny them the right to organize.

J. M. Woltz, chief of the sheet and tube company's police force, ordered that he fired the first shot. He was terrified at the result of his attempt to handle these foreigners in the mill property and to strike guards. He said he fired a "blank shot," and only intended to scare the strikers. The shot, however, started a conflagration that is inseparable with moments more than hours. Scores of state have been furnished another argument when they again request the Ohio legislature to grant to private corporations maintaining private armies to menace peace, law and order.

Responsibility for the shot is placed at the door of the strike guards by Mayor Cuningham, who made this statement:

"Had these guards been kept within the limits of the mill property no shot of there would have been any trouble. We did not have any trouble with the workers here until the strike guards took sides. We told me they would be amenable to our officers. Eye-witnesses told me it was the guards on the bridge who fired the first shots. That aroused the fury of the mob and there was no holding it in check once it started on its wild rampage.

A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn said:

"We did not call this strike. We couldn't, for the men were not organized. Besides, we are not calling any strikes. We are trying to organize the men who have walked out. The men did not start the riot. The strike guards fired the first shots."

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 15.—Strikers at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company's plant here have voted to accept what is declared to be approximately a 10 per cent wage increase.

Youngstown, Ohio, Jan. 18.—Iron and steel manufacturers in the Mahoning valley are guarding against strikes by announcing increases to take effect immediately. The Republic Iron and Steel company, when the increases announced by the United States Steel corporation take effect.

FAVOR CHILD LABOR.

Washington, Jan. 15.—"I'm going to send my children to the North Carolina cotton mills instead of compelling them to school," was the sarcastic declaration of a trade union official, after listening to arguments by attorneys and manufacturers before the house committee on labor in opposition to the Keating-Owen anti-child labor bill.

Attorney James Emery, whose connection with the National association of manufacturers is well known, assured the committee he was against child labor. He did not approve of it, but—

This particular bill is unconstitutional and should never, never, be sustained by the courts.

A delegation of North Carolina manufacturers appeared in opposition to the approval of the bill. Their main objection was the ruin it would cause by putting children out of work and thereby keep them from enjoying the happy life of a cotton mill worker. The manufacturers also declared the lack of educational facilities in their state, which should pass a compulsory school law. It is their intention, they declared, to introduce such a measure.

The Keating-Owen bill debars from interstate commerce all child labor products.

STRIKE FORCES HIGHER WAGES.

Nashua, N. H., Jan. 15.—The 1,800 striking textile employes of the Nashua Manufacturing company and the Jackson Manufacturing company have unanimously rejected the 5 per cent wage increase and are as determined to win as the day they suspended work, one week ago. Nearly 2,500 workers declare that the 5 per cent increase is not enough, as wages only range from between $8 to $10 a week. The companies are maintaining a small army of thugs which are labeled special police, and detectives and detectives, also, are employed to intimidate the strikers. The strike is undoubtedly one of the chief causes for a general wage agitation now on in New England. It is declared, however, that if Nashua workers succeed a 10 per cent demand will spread to other mills in New England. To effect this movement, employers are now raising wages 5 per cent. In organizing the movement it is declared that for 10 per cent is indicated by textile employes.

STATE UNIONISTS MEET.

Jackson, Tenn., Jan. 15.—At the annual convention of the state federation of labor a resolution was passed urging all labor unions to send delegates to the constitutional conference, to be held in Nashville, March 1. Governor Hooper, of Memphis, was elected president, and J. Simon, Nashville, secretary-treasurer. Memphis was selected as the next convention city.

FURRIERS' OFFICIAL DEAD.

New York, Jan. 15.—Secretary-Treasurer Louis Kaufman, of the International Furriers' union, died last week after a surgical operation. Deceased was 40 years of age and had been active in the trade union movement. For three years he served as secretary-treasurer of his international union.

WOOD CARVERS RAISE WAGES.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 15.—As a result of a five weeks' strike the Wood Carvers' union has secured an increase of 10 per cent and reduced the work day from 10 hours to nine.

WILL ASK FOR WAGE INCREASE

Antonio, Tex., Jan. 15.—The building crafts in this city are preparing to ask for a 5 per cent increase in wages.